

top-quality bachelor degree programs in unique, high-demand career niches. Dr. Bascuas brought more than 25 years of experience in higher education to Becker College. In addition to his teaching and leading experiences, he has written and coauthored numerous papers on psychological topics and has presented at symposia and conferences. Dr. Bascuas utilized his great volume of experience and passion for quality higher education in his role as Becker College interim president.

I stand here today to congratulate Dr. Joseph W. Bascuas on the completion of his honorable work as Becker College's interim president. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Joseph W. Bascuas continued success.

VICTORIOUS SENATE PAGES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on May 16, 2010, the Senate Pages played the House Pages in an annual ultimate Frisbee game on the National Mall. This year the Senate Pages won the game commandingly 6-3.

Congratulations Senate Pages.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING WALTER J. HICKEL

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on Saturday morning, May 8, Alaskans awakened to the sad news that our beloved former Governor, Walter J. Hickel, passed away at the age of 90.

While those in my State viewed him as an Alaska legend, students of American political history may recall Governor Hickel more vividly as President Nixon's first Secretary of the Interior. They may recall that Hickel left that position after criticizing President Nixon for his handling of the Vietnam war and the student protests that gripped the Nation over our involvement in Southeast Asia.

In 1970, following what has come to be known as the "Kent State Massacre," Secretary Hickel wrote a letter urging President Nixon to give more respect to the views of young people critical of the war. That letter included the passage, "I believe this administration finds itself today embracing a philosophy which appears to lack appropriate concern for the attitude of a great mass of Americans—our young people."

On November 25, 1970, Governor Hickel was fired over the letter. His firing came days after he told "60 Minutes" that he had no intention of quitting. He said he would only go away "with an arrow in my heart, not a bullet in my back." The Nixon administration was all too pleased to oblige.

If President Kennedy were still alive, he surely would have viewed this series of events as a "profile in courage." To this day, when Alaskans are asked for one word that describes Walter Hickel, the word "backbone" immediately comes to mind.

They may have fired Wally Hickel but they didn't silence him. Governor Hickel left the national political scene following this incident to focus on Alaska and the Arctic, and his independence, his judgment, and his backbone inspired leaders of Alaska for decades to come.

Governor Hickel appreciated that public policy is a team effort, not an individual sport. Two of Governor Hickel's enduring legacies to the State—Commonwealth North, Alaska's leading public affairs forum, and the Institute of the North, a public policy think-tank—continue to shape public discourse today. Governor Hickel would be proud that last week, even as Alaskans grieved his loss, the Institute of the North conducted its annual Emerging Leaders Dialogue in Sitka.

Governor Hickel's life was large, as large as all of Alaska. Alaska is one of the few corners of America in which legends can still be made. And Governor Hickel surely will go down in history as an Alaska legend.

Born August 18, 1919, in Kansas, Walter J. Hickel came to Alaska in 1940 with 37 cents in his pocket. As he sailed into Prince William Sound on the S.S. *Yukon*, overwhelmed by the breathtaking natural beauty, Hickel remarked, "You take care of me, and I'll take care of you."

The words were prophetic. After working as a bartender, a carpenter, and an aircraft inspector, Governor Hickel saved enough money to purchase a half-completed house. He finished building the house, sold it, and then built two more. Eventually, he built several hundred homes.

Long time Fairbanks newspaper columnist Dermot Cole recalls Governor Hickel's success in enlisting community support to build Fairbanks' first modern hotel in 1955. Fairbanks needed a hotel, and Governor Hickel needed financing. He asked the Fairbanks community to invest in its future by purchasing bonds to finance the project, and 583 bondholders invested in the project. The smallest investment was \$10, the largest \$25,000. The project was built in 7 months. The bondholders were paid back by 1960. And that hotel, The Travelers Inn, still greets visitors to Alaska's Golden Heart City. Today, it is known as the Westmark Fairbanks.

Governor Hickel went on to build Anchorage's Captain Cook Hotel, as a show of confidence in the economy of Southcentral Alaska following the 1964 earthquake. Today, the Captain Cook Hotel offers 547 rooms, in 3 towers, and is Alaska's member of the Preferred Hotel Group.

Alaska sure took care of Wally Hickel, and Governor Hickel more than fulfilled his promise to take care of Alaska, proving that economic development and environmental conservation are not mutually exclusive concepts. His life demonstrates that a developer can be a conservationist and a conservationist can be a developer. One

is left to wonder which title he preferred.

Governor Hickel believed that economies can be grown through big projects. He certainly was not one who shared the view prevalent in some circles of the Lower 48, that Alaska should be locked up as a museum to compensate for poor land use decisions made elsewhere in America. During a 1978 interview, he referred to Alaska as a "happy, young, vibrant country." Blunt and honest, he lamented those who argued, "Don't walk here. Don't walk there. Don't step on the dandelions. You can't use this." He referred to this kind of thinking as "What a bunch of bull."

Yet this is the same Walter Hickel who dispatched legions of Interior Department employees to commemorate the first observance of Earth Day in 1969; the same Walter Hickel who told the National Petroleum Council in 1970, "The right to produce [petroleum] is not the right to pollute. America must prove to itself as well as to others worldwide that it has the ability to clean up the garbage it has left in its wake."

He insisted that those who benefited from the development of Alaska's resources pay Alaskans their due. And during Governor Hickel's second stint as Governor during the 1990s, the major oil companies were persuaded to pay the State more than \$4 billion in disputed back taxes and royalties. Historian Stephen Haycox refers to this as "a very significant legacy . . . because he forced the oil companies to acknowledge that they had a debt they owed to Alaska." In the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Governor Hickel used settlement funds to purchase land for Kachemak Bay State Park and Afognak State Park.

I could go on all day about the life of Wally Hickel. A man who constantly struggled with dyslexia, he authored several books and monographs and many articles. A self-educated individual, he received numerous honorary degrees and befriended foreign heads of state.

A fighter for Alaska's statehood, Hickel attended the birth of the State of Alaska. And history will remember that very little of significance happened in Alaska in the ensuing 50 years that Walter J. Hickel was not involved in. It is no overstatement to suggest that Governor Hickel had a substantial hand in Alaska's start, its present, and its future.

During Alaska's 50th anniversary of statehood celebration last year, I marveled at the fact that so many of the people who made our history are still alive and available to inspire succeeding generations of Alaskans as we continue to grow our State. I would like to think that giants such as Wally Hickel could live forever.

On behalf of all of our Senate colleagues, I extend condolences to Governor Hickel's wife Ermalee, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Thank you for sharing this